

## VISION STATEMENT

"To provide positive and meaningful real-world career experiences and leadership development opportunities for all teenagers and young adults in their chosen field of interest."



# Exploring's 5 Areas of Emphasis

**1 Career Opportunities**

REAL-WORLD CAREER SKILLS

**2 Leadership Experience**

LEADERSHIP SKILLS EMPLOYERS CRAVE

**3 Life Skills**

CONFLICT-RESOLUTION, PROBLEM-SOLVING, RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

**4 Citizenship**

LEARN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS

**5 Character Education**

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

Learning for Life  
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[www.learningforlife.org/exploring](http://www.learningforlife.org/exploring)

**Exploring**  
Real-World Career Experiences®

**LEARNING FOR LIFE**  
PreK-12 Programs Career Exploring

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# What is Exploring?

Exploring is Learning for Life's career education program for young men and women who are at least 14 (and have completed 8th grade) and not yet 21 years old. Adults are selected by the participating organization for involvement in the program. Color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status and citizenship are not criteria for participation.

Exploring is all about helping young adults make a more informed decision about future careers and determine if a particular career is the right one for them. Typically, a young adult will either:

- 1) get involved, learn about a career, and decide to pursue it;
- OR 2) learn enough about the career to determine it's not the right fit for them. It's better to learn as a young adult that a career is not for you, than after spending lots of money on an education only to THEN discover you don't like the career!

Exploring leaders volunteer their time to provide real-world career experiences for young adults. Exploring is not about lectures and slide shows – it's about gaining practical experience in a career field. The result is a program of activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Careers in the social services area include: child care workers, adult care givers, drug/alcohol counselors, human services workers, social/welfare workers, teachers/teachers' aides, and many more. By providing hands-on work-related activities to students, social services professions and organizations help youth explore the skills, intricacies, demands, and needs of various social services careers.

### Popular Exploring careers include:

- Child, Family & Health Social Workers
- Medical & Public Health Social Workers
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers
- Social & Human Service Assistants

### Explorers will:

- Develop work experiences to begin building their résumé
- Learn important leadership skills
- Understand the importance of teamwork in a professional setting
- Participate in hands-on projects to give them a real feel for whether this career is the right one for them
- Network with professionals who work in these careers daily – including human services workers, school/guidance counselors, and child care workers
- Learn about the educational requirements for a career in Social Services and will receive tangible advice on steps they could take now to prepare and position for a successful career in the field of Social Services



Learn More. Experience More. Participate in Exploring.  
View the career webpage for more information.



## Everyone Wins With Exploring!

Exploring will be one of the best opportunities you offer your company, your employees, and the youth of your community.

### COMPANY BENEFITS

- Cultivate future employees
- Impact on the education process of youth
- Prepare young adults for transition from school to work
- Develop future responsible and caring adults
- Improve staff teamwork working on common goals outside of normal work
- Visible commitment to the welfare of the community

### EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Increased realization that we are ALL responsible for molding today's youth and tomorrow's leaders
- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Greater job awareness
- Opportunity for greater community involvement
- Enhanced communication, planning, and program development skills
- Increased initiative of employees

### YOUTH BENEFITS

- Practical, real-world career experiences and insight
- Stimulated interest in continual education
- Building of leadership, self-confidence, and problem-solving skills
- Cooperative relationship between adults and youth
- Community service to others

## Testimonials

"I've learned a lot about leadership, planning, and communication. I want to pursue a career where I can help other people."

— Allen T., Explorer

"Without Exploring, I don't know where I would be. Exploring opened the doors to a very successful career for me."

— Danielle S., Explorer Advisor

"The program was helpful because it illuminated and explained the many opportunities and possibilities available in the field of Social Services."

— Laura M., Explorer Parent

